



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH &
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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CMS Awards TDMHDD Funds for Mental Health Recovery Initiatives

Nashville - The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities was recently awarded a Real Choice Systems Change grant from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The department will receive almost \$500,000 over the next three years.

Funds will allow the department to implement three recovery initiatives including: 1) training of peer specialists throughout the state to teach Wellness Recovery Action Plan classes; 2) establishing a comprehensive, community-based, web resource directory; and 3) training practitioners to teach the evidence-based practice of Illness Management and Recovery. Funds will also be used to hire a state Project Director.

These initiatives complement each other and help to ensure the success of the project. Through the comprehensive Web-based resource directory and IMR classes, Tennessee mental health consumers will obtain the information and education needed to develop a personalized WRAP. The assessment tools developed will better connect and integrate consumers within their community and will connect consumer's caregivers to needed support resources. This WRAP-based system will offer consumers a positive pathway for sustained change in their quest for recovery and community integration.

"I am excited we are receiving these federal funds that support the department's focus on consumer recovery," said TDMHDD Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts. "WRAP works because it is peers helping peers. The result of this successful program has been proven to be long-term, and I am grateful we will now be able to reach even more Tennesseans."

These grants are specifically intended to help states and others build the infrastructure that will result in effective and enduring improvements in community-integrated services and long-term support systems that enable individuals of all ages to live in the most integrated community setting suited to their needs, to have meaningful choices about their living arrangements, and to exercise more control over the services they receive.

For more information on WRAP or additional mental health information, please contact TDMHDD's Office of Public Information and Education at (615) 253-4812 or visit www.state.tn.us/mental.

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